

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

CASE NO. 19-cv-61430-SINGHAL/Seltzer

ELIZABETH E. BELIN,  
CHRISTOPHER MITCHELL,  
KEVIN FURMAN, MITCHELL KIRBY,  
GABRIELLE WATSON and KATHRYN  
SVENSON, JESSE MANLEY  
and RANDALL SPITZMESSER  
individually and on behalf of all others  
similarly situated,

CLASS ACTION  
(Jury Trial Demanded)

Plaintiffs,

v.

HEALTH INSURANCE INNOVATIONS, INC.,  
HEALTH PLAN INTERMEDIARIES  
HOLDINGS, LLC and MICHAEL KOSLOSKE,

Defendants.

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**SECOND AMENDED CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

Class Plaintiffs, ELIZABETH E. BELIN, CHRISTOPHER MITCHELL, KEVIN FURMAN, MITCHELL KIRBY, GABRIELLE WATSON, KATHRYN SVENSON, JESSE MANLEY and RANDALL SPITZMESSER, file this amended class action complaint individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated against Defendants, HEALTH INSURANCE INNOVATIONS, INC., HEALTH PLAN INTERMEDIARIES HOLDINGS, LLC and MICHAEL KOSLOSKE, and allege as follows:

**INTRODUCTION**

1. Unscrupulous health insurance scammers continue to besiege American consumers. One such scam involves the marketing and sale of “limited benefit indemnity plans” and ancillary products such as “medical discount plans.” These plans are not comprehensive,

“major medical” or “group” insurance. They do not comply with the Affordable Care Act (“ACA”). At best, they are supplemental products that defray a fraction of the out-of-pocket costs, such as deductibles, coinsurance and copays, that sometimes arise from ACA-compliant plans. These products represent less than 1% of the health insurance marketplace.

2. A group of Florida companies and individuals, working together, defrauded hundreds of thousands of consumers nationwide by leading those consumers to believe that their limited benefit indemnity plans and medical discount plans were major medical insurance. Recently, a federal judge, prompted by a Federal Trade Commission (“FTC”) lawsuit, entered a series of orders restraining one of those companies, Simple Health, from conducting further business. The court installed receiver Michael I. Goldberg, who found and reported that Simple Health was “largely a classic bait-and-switch scam whereby unwitting consumers are falsely led to believe that they are purchasing a [PPO] that is compliant with the [ACA], but in reality are sold limited benefit indemnity plans that are not compliant with the ACA.”

3. This lawsuit takes aim at two of the companies that directed, operated, managed, conspired with and/or aided and abetted the enterprise that perpetrated the fraud: Health Insurance Innovations, Inc. (“HIIQ”) and Health Plan Intermediaries Holdings, LLC (“HPIH”) (collectively, the “HII Defendants”) — and their founder and former CEO, Michael Kosloske. The HII Defendants and Kosloske developed the limited benefit indemnity plans and the distribution channels through which consumers were defrauded. Simple Health was the largest of those distributors. A company called Donisi Jax, Inc. f/k/a Nationwide Health Advisors and now d/b/a Atlantic Health (“Nationwide Health”) was another. The HII Defendants loaned Simple Health and Nationwide Health millions of dollars to fund their operations; trained Simple Health’s and Nationwide Health’s sales agents; monitored and audited Simple Health’s and Nationwide

Health's compliance functions, including their sales calls; reviewed, edited and tacitly or expressly approved the fraudulent scripts used by Simple Health and Nationwide Health to sell the products; provided customer service to customers following those sales, listening to thousands of those customers complain that they had been defrauded; collected monthly premiums from those customers; accounted for, audited and distributed the commissions and proceeds of those sales; allowed dozens of Simple Health sales agents to register their licenses through the HII Defendants; directed and paid for legal costs incurred by Simple Health arising out of dozens of regulatory investigations; and directed Simple Health and Nationwide Health to use the HII Defendants' online platform to quote and sell the HII Defendants' products.

4. In connection with the fraudulent scheme, the HII Defendants paid Simple Health and Nationwide Health extremely generous commissions and plied them with millions of dollars in financing. As a result, Simple Health developed into the HII Defendants' largest and most profitable third-party distributor of limited benefit indemnity plans, medical discount plans and other products, generating hundreds of millions of dollars in fees and premiums — nearly 50% of all revenues generated by the HII Defendants. Nationwide Health became a large distributor as well and, since the FTC took down Simple Health in late 2018, is now one of the largest (if not the largest) distributor for the HII Defendants.

5. All of this happened by defrauding that vulnerable group of Americans who do not have comprehensive medical insurance. Consumers were told, through a uniform script read to them by the distributors' sales agents, a set of lies and omissions that included, among other falsehoods, the misrepresentation that they were purchasing a "group plan" and "PPO" from a reputable, "A-rated" insurance carrier. In truth, as Judge Gayles has found in the FTC action, consumers received "virtually worthless" limited indemnity plans and medical discount plans.

6. For the HII Defendants' knowing and substantial assistance to distributors including Simple Health and Nationwide Health, and for their part in the enterprise they developed and directed, the HII Defendants must be held to account to consumers like Class Plaintiff Elizabeth Belin. Belin had been recently divorced, without insurance and suffering from a preexisting knee injury in early 2016 when she began looking for ACA-compliant healthcare. She found one of Simple Health's dozens of websites, which had misleading names like "Obamacare-healthquotes.com," "myobamacareapplication.com" and "healthinsurance2017deadline.com." Simple Health's sales agent told her that he was shopping among numerous PPOs of "A-rated carriers," and would find the best one for Belin at the best price. Reading from a script, the sales agent's misrepresentations and omissions led Belin to believe she was buying comprehensive medical insurance. Instead, she bought a limited benefit indemnity plan and medical discount plan (similar to a "buyer's club" card), as well as Accidental Death & Dismemberment ("AD&D") insurance that she never requested. She paid an enrollment fee of \$155 and a monthly premium of \$238.77. Belin later had knee replacement surgery, only to learn that the surgery was not covered. She received bills in excess of \$48,000, more than her annual salary, thousands of dollars of which she still owes.

7. Chris Mitchell shared a similar experience. An advocate for the homeless, Mitchell's employer did not offer health insurance benefits. Mitchell purchased a limited indemnity plan and medical discount plan from Simple Health in early 2016 after listening to a sales agent read from the sales script that Simple Health read to Belin and the other class members. He paid a \$155 enrollment fee and a \$206.90 monthly premium. In early 2018, Mitchell was diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer and was immediately scheduled for surgery. Just days before that surgery, Mitchell's hospital told him that he had no insurance coverage. Mitchell

scrambled to come up with a down payment for the surgery, but ultimately received bills exceeding \$40,000. He described the difficulties caused by Simple Health and Defendants as oftentimes more difficult than fighting cancer.

8. Kevin Furman of West Palm Beach, Florida, also fell victim. In late 2017, he made a search engine request for “major medical inexpensive” and was led to a website containing a phone number for Nationwide Health. Furman called the number and was told by the sales agent that he would receive major medical insurance to protect against catastrophic health costs. Furman paid a \$125 enrollment fee and a \$437.54 monthly premium. Furman continued to pay the monthly premium for about a year, when he was told by his new employer that the HII product he had purchased through Donisi Jax was not health insurance.

9. Class representatives Mitchell Kirby, Gabrielle Watson, Kathryn Svenson, Randy Spitzmesser and Jesse Manley suffered through substantially similar experiences, as described in more detail below.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

10. Subject Matter Jurisdiction. The Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 (“CAFA”), 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d), because (i) the matter in controversy exceeds \$5 million, exclusive of interest and costs; (ii) there are members of the proposed Class (which is comprised of residents of all 50 states) who are citizens of different states than Defendants; and (iii) there are in the aggregate more than 100 members of the proposed class. This Court also has federal question subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1964.

11. Personal Jurisdiction. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants as follows:

a. The HII Defendants.

i. This Court has specific personal jurisdiction over the HII Defendants pursuant to

Section 48.193(1)(a), Fla. Stat.:

1. The HII Defendants maintain their headquarters and principal place of business in Florida. Both regularly and systematically operate, conduct, engage in and carry on a business or business venture in Florida, and have an office or agency in Florida;
  2. As further alleged in this Complaint, each HII Defendant committed one or more tortious acts within Florida; and
  3. Upon information and belief, the HII Defendants own, use, possess and/or hold a mortgage or other lien on real property within Florida.
- ii. This Court has general personal jurisdiction over the HII Defendants pursuant to Section 48.193(2), Fla. Stat. The HII Defendants are engaged in substantial and not isolated activity within this state, as shown by, among other facts:
1. The HII Defendants' principal place of business is in Florida.
  2. From their office in Tampa, the HII Defendants directed and/or aided and abetted the breach of fiduciary duty and fraudulent acts alleged herein, through their knowing and substantial assistance of Simple Health and Nationwide Health. They managed and participated in the RICO enterprise described herein. From their offices in South Florida, Simple Health and Nationwide Health contacted consumers throughout the country, primarily if not exclusively via telephone. As further described below, during those phone calls Simple Health's and Nationwide Health's agents, from offices in South Florida, made misrepresentations and omissions that induced Class Plaintiffs and class members to purchase the HII Defendants' limited benefit indemnity plans.

During those calls, Simple Health and Nationwide Health processed (in Florida) Plaintiffs' and class members' payment of enrollment fees and first monthly premiums using the HII Defendants' payment platform.

3. Subsequent monthly premium payments by Class Plaintiffs and class members were collected by the HII Defendants, which processed those payments in Florida.
4. From their Florida offices, the HII Defendants wired commissions to Simple Health's and Nationwide Health's offices in South Florida.
5. The HII Defendants also financed Simple Health's and Nationwide Health's operations and growth by providing millions of dollars in "advanced commissions" and providing Simple Health with a \$1 million bonus advance. This financing was memorialized in loan agreements, a note and personal guaranties executed in Florida.
6. The HII Defendants provided customer service to Class Plaintiffs and class members from their offices in Florida.
7. The HII Defendants sent billing statements and other documents to Class Plaintiffs and class members from the HII Defendants' offices in Florida.

b. Michael Kosloske. Kosloske is an individual who during all material times was a resident and citizen of Florida. He is HII Defendants' founder, largest shareholder and former CEO. In 2018, Kosloske received more than \$40 million from the sale of company stock.

12. Venue. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 and 18 U.S.C. § 1965 because (i) a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to Class Plaintiffs'

claims occurred in this District, and (ii) Defendants' contacts with this District would be sufficient to subject them to personal jurisdiction in this District if this District were a separate State. The HII Defendants and Kosloske regularly and systematically operate, conduct, engage in and carry on a business or business venture in this District, and have generated hundreds of thousands of dollars in revenues from consumers in this District. Defendants committed one or more tortious acts within this District. The HII Defendants financed Simple Health's and Nationwide Health's operations and took a UCC lien on all of Simple Health's and Nationwide Health's assets, including real property owned by Simple Health and Nationwide Health in this District. Defendants' contacts within this District, including through its relationship with Simple Health and Nationwide Health as described in paragraph 11 above, were substantial and not isolated.

### **PARTIES**

13. Plaintiff Elizabeth Belin is an individual, and is a resident and citizen of the state of Ohio. Belin is a "person" under 18 U.S.C. § 1964.

14. Plaintiff Christopher Mitchell is an individual, and is a resident and citizen of the state of Kansas. Mitchell is a "person" under 18 U.S.C. § 1964.

15. Plaintiff Kevin Furman is an individual, and is a resident and citizen of the state of Florida. Furman is a "person" under 18 U.S.C. § 1964.

16. Plaintiff Mitchell Kirby is an individual, and is a resident and citizen of the state of Arizona. Kirby is a "person" under 18 U.S.C. § 1964.

17. Plaintiff Gabrielle Watson is an individual, and is a resident and citizen of the state of South Carolina. Watson is a "person" under 18 U.S.C. § 1964.

18. Plaintiff Kathryn Svenson is an individual, and is a resident and citizen of the state of Hawaii. Svenson is a "person" under 18 U.S.C. § 1964.



19. Plaintiff Jesse Manley is an individual, and is a resident and citizen of the state of Michigan. Manley is a “person” under 18 U.S.C. § 1964.

20. Plaintiff Randall Spitzmesser is an individual, and is a resident and citizen of the state of Nevada. Spitzmesser is a “person” under 18 U.S.C. § 1964.

21. Defendant Health Insurance Innovations, Inc. (“HIIQ”) is distributor of health and life insurance products. HIIQ is a Delaware corporation based in Tampa, Florida. HIIQ is publicly traded on NASDAQ under the stock symbol “HIIQ.” HIIQ is a holding company. Its only material asset is the ownership of a 100% economic interest in Defendant Health Plan Intermediaries Holdings, LLC. HIIQ receives distributions from Health Plan Intermediaries Holdings, LLC to pay taxes and other expenses. HIIQ is an entity capable of holding a legal or beneficial interest in property and is therefore a culpable “person” under 18 U.S.C. § 1961.

22. Defendant Health Plan Intermediaries Holdings, LLC (“HPIH”) is a Delaware limited liability company based in Tampa, Florida. HPIH’s members are (i) HIIQ; (ii) Health Plan Intermediaries Sub, LLC (“HPIS”), a Delaware limited liability company based in Tampa, Florida, whose sole manager/member, Michael Kosloske, is an individual who resides in Tampa, Florida; (iii) Health Plan Intermediaries, LLC (“HPI”), a Florida corporation based in Tampa, Florida, whose sole manager/member, Michael Kosloske, is an individual who resides in Tampa, Florida; and (iv) Gavin Southwell, an individual who resides in Tampa, Florida. HPIH is an entity capable of holding a legal or beneficial interest in property and is therefore a culpable “person” under 18 U.S.C. § 1961.

23. Defendant Michael Kosloske is an individual, and is a resident and citizen of the state of Florida.

**RELEVANT NONPARTIES**

24. The nonparty entities listed in paragraphs 27 through 32 below are related entities that will be referred to collectively as “Simple Health.” These entities conducted business from the State of Florida through interrelated companies with common ownership, officers, managers and business functions.

25. The HII Defendants sold limited indemnity plans nationwide through Simple Health, with a significant percentage those plans sold to Florida consumers. For example, in 2015, Simple Health sold 103,000 plans nationwide, with 10,524 (more than 10 percent) of those sold to Florida consumers.

26. Simple Health sold limited benefit indemnity products for the HII Defendants that included product names like Principle Advantage, Legion Limited Medical, Unified Health One, Health Choice + and Protector 360, underwritten by companies such as Companion Life Insurance, Axis Insurance Co., Unified Life Ins. Co., American Financial Security Life Ins. Co. (AFSLIC), Vitala Care and Humana Insurance Co.

27. Simple Health Plans LLC (“Simple Health Plans”) is a Florida limited liability company with its principal place of business in Hollywood, Florida. At all times material to this Class Action Complaint, Simple Health Plans advertised, marketed, distributed and sold limited benefit plans and medical discount plans to consumers throughout the United States, including Class Plaintiffs and putative class members.

28. Health Benefits One, LLC (“HBO”), is a Florida limited liability company with its principal place of business in Hollywood, Florida. HBO also did business as Health Benefits Center, Simple Health, Simple Health Plans, Simple Insurance, Simple Insurance Plans, Simple Auto, Simple Home, Simple Home Plans, Simple Care, Simple Life and National Dental Savings.

At all times material to this Class Action Complaint, HBO advertised, marketed, distributed and sold limited benefit plans and medical discount plans to consumers throughout the United States, including Class Plaintiffs and putative class members.

29. Health Center Management LLC (“HCM”) is a Florida limited liability company with its principal place of business in Hollywood, Florida. At all times material to this Class Action Complaint, HCM advertised, marketed, distributed and sold limited benefit plans and medical discount plans to consumers throughout the United States, including Class Plaintiffs and putative class members.

30. Innovative Customer Care LLC (“ICC”) is a Florida limited liability company with its principal place of business in Hollywood, Florida. At all times material to this Class Action Complaint, ICC advertised, marketed, distributed and sold limited benefit plans and medical discount plans to consumers throughout the United States, including Class Plaintiffs and putative class members.

31. Simple Insurance Leads LLC (“SIL”) is a Florida limited liability company with its principal place of business in Hollywood, Florida. At all times material to this Class Action Complaint, SIL advertised, marketed, distributed and sold limited benefit plans and medical discount plans to consumers throughout the United States, including Class Plaintiffs and putative class members. As Defendants reported in their SEC filings, SIL was actually formed by Defendants “and our third-party joint venture partner [Simple Health] in June 2013 . . . .” Defendants sold its interest in SIL to Simple Health in 2015.

32. Senior Benefits One LLC (“SBO”) is a Florida limited liability company with its principal place of business in Hollywood, Florida. At all times material to this Class Action Complaint, SBO advertised, marketed, distributed and sold limited benefit plans and medical

discount plans to consumers throughout the United States, including Class Plaintiffs and putative class members.

33. Steven J. Dorfman (“Dorfman”) was an owner, officer, member or manager of Simple Health Plans, HBO, HCM, ICC, SIL and SBO.

34. Matthew Spiewak (“Spiewak”) was an owner, officer, member or manager of Simple Health Plans, HBO, HCM, ICC, SIL and SBO. Spiewak entered into a series of agreements whereby he became a “Managing General Agent” of the HII Defendants.

35. Donisi Jax, Inc. d/b/a Nationwide Health (“Nationwide Health”) is a Florida corporation headquartered in Pompano Beach, Florida. Nationwide Health sold the Cardinal Choice limited benefit indemnity product for the HII Defendants, underwritten by Federal Insurance Co.

36. Charles Donisi (“Donisi”) is the president and co-owner of Donisi Jax.

37. Evan Jaxtheimer (“Jaxtheimer”) is the vice president and co-owner of Donisi Jax.

38. Safeguard Insurance Market, Inc. (“Safeguard”) is a Florida corporation headquartered in Coral Springs, Florida. Like Simple Health and Nationwide Health, Safeguard used uniform scripts to sell limited benefit indemnity plans and medical discount plans marketed by the HII Defendants, generating significant complaints.

39. Health Benefits Group, Inc. (“HBG”) is a Florida corporation headquartered in Lauderhill, Florida. Like Simple Health and Nationwide Health, HBG used uniform scripts to sell limited benefit indemnity plans and medical discount plans marketed by the HII Defendants, generating significant complaints.

40. Assurance IQ, Inc. (“Assurance IQ”) is a Washington corporation headquartered in Bellevue, Washington. Like Simple Health and Nationwide Health, Assurance used uniform

scripts to sell limited benefit indemnity plans and medical discount plans marketed by the HII Defendants, generating significant complaints.

41. There are likely other, yet-to-be identified entities and individuals involved in the Enterprise (the “John Doe Entities”).

### **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

#### **A. Comprehensive Medical Insurance v. Limited Benefit Indemnity Plans and Medical Discount Plans**

42. This case stems from fraudulent misrepresentations and omissions made for the purpose of leading consumers, including Class Plaintiffs and class members, to believe they were purchasing comprehensive medical insurance, when they instead were purchasing limited benefit indemnity plans, ancillary medical discount plans and other non-ACA-compliant products.

43. Comprehensive medical insurance generally covers most if not all expenses incurred for events like doctor’s visits, emergency room visits, hospital stays, lab services and prescriptions. Insureds pay a premium, deductible and/or a copayment, and the risk of large medical expenses shifts to the insurer.

44. Many comprehensive medical insurance plans comply with the ACA, 42 U.S.C. § 18001. ACA-compliant plans cover preexisting conditions and emergency medical care, hospitalization, prescriptions, preventative care, maternity and pediatric care. During the relevant time period, insureds with ACA-compliant plans were not required to pay the penalty imposed on those who afford such a plan but did not buy one. The ACA is also called “Obamacare” and has certain enrollment periods and deadlines.

45. One way to deliver comprehensive medical insurance plans is through a preferred provider organization (“PPO”). A PPO provides favorable coinsurance, copayments and reduced deductions to insureds who use a PPO’s health network of preferred physicians and health systems.

46. Limited benefit indemnity plans are much different than comprehensive medical plans. With limited benefit indemnity plans, consumers receive predefined financial benefits after incurring medical expenses. In other words, consumers purchase medical services at prenegotiated discount rates. So if a limited benefit indemnity plan specifies a \$50 per day benefit for hospital stays (similar to what Defendants and Simple Health sold), then the consumer is paid only \$500 for a 10-day hospital stay that may cost tens of thousands of dollars. The risk of high or catastrophic medical bills falls completely on the consumer, in some cases leading to devastating financial consequences.

47. Limited benefit indemnity plans are often combined with ancillary products including “medical discount plans,” which are not insurance and guarantee no medical coverage. Medical discounts are like a “buyers club” or grocery store savings card. With a medical discount plan, consumers generally pay a monthly fee to get discounts on specific services or products, such as dental and vision discounts, from participating providers.

48. Limited benefit indemnity plans and medical discount plans are not major medical insurance and do not comply with the ACA. If a consumer has only such plans, then he or she is subject to the ACA penalty.

**B. The Enterprise**

49. The HII Defendants were founded by Kosloske in 2008 and became publicly traded on NASDAQ in 2013. The HII Defendants’ revenue in 2018 was \$351.1 million. Not all of the HII Defendants’ revenues were generated from the sale of limited benefit indemnity plans and ancillary or medical discount plans through distributors like Simple Health and Nationwide Health. The HII Defendants sold other products legitimately. But of the revenues the HII Defendants generated in 2018, nearly \$160 million was generated from the sale of limited benefit indemnity

plans and nearly \$97 million was generated from ancillary or medical discount plans and AD&D insurance.

50. Together, the HII Defendants, Simple Health, Nationwide Health and their officers, including Kosloske, Dorfman, Spiewak, Donisi and Jaxheimer, as well as employees, independent contractors, third-party subagents, member associations (including Med-Sense Guaranteed Association, Inc. (“Med-Sense”) and the John Doe Entities created, operated and managed an associated-in-fact “enterprise” to sell or distribute limited benefit indemnity plans, ancillary products like medical discount plans and other non-ACA-compliant products to consumers who thought they were purchasing comprehensive medical insurance (the “Enterprise”). Ultimately, the Enterprise would operate for more than five years, sufficient time to permit Defendants, Simple Health, Nationwide Health and their other associates to successfully pursue the Enterprise’s purpose, which was to deceptively maximize profitability — to take cheap and relatively worthless products, bundle them and then represent them as something more valuable and expensive so as to sell the products at an unfair premium.

51. The Enterprise used the wires and mails to perpetrate the fraud. As described in more detail below, Simple Health and Nationwide Health used a standardized script to make misrepresentations and omissions to Class Plaintiffs and class members over the phone, as well as to obtain and process payment information. The HII Defendants then sent each Class Plaintiff and class member an information packet via email and membership cards and other information via U.S. mail. The HII Defendants also monitored numerous sales calls by Simple Health and Nationwide Health agents.

52. As stated in the HII Defendants’ SEC filings, the HII Defendants are not insurers. Rather, the HII Defendants develop limited benefit indemnity plans and other products. Those

plans and products are underwritten by insurers like Companion Life Insurance Co., Lifeshield National Insurance Co., Federal Insurance Co., Axis Insurance Co. and American Financial Security Life Insurance Co. The HII Defendants then market those products to consumers, primarily through third-party distribution channels. The Enterprise included two of the largest of the external distribution channels that the HII Defendants directed, managed and controlled — the channels that ran through Simple Health and Nationwide Health.

53. In March 2013, the HII Defendants and Simple Health entered into a Managing General Agent Agreement (“MGAA”) allowing Simple Health to promote and sell various of the products marketed by the HII Defendants, principally the limited benefit indemnity plans, medical discount plans and AD&D insurance. Under the MGAA, Simple Health agreed to sell no other products than those developed or managed by the HII Defendants.

54. In September 2015, the HII Defendants entered into a similar MGAA with Nationwide Health, allowing it to sell the Cardinal Choice limited indemnity product marketed by the HII Defendants, among other products.

55. The HII Defendants directed all billing and premium collection services. The HII Defendants collected (and continue to collect) monthly payments from Simple Health and Nationwide Health customers. The HII Defendants provided an accounting of these payments and distributed a portion to Simple Health and Nationwide Health as commissions and a portion to the underlying insurance company or discount provider as a premium. The HII Defendants kept the balance for themselves.

56. The HII Defendants also directed and performed other services for customers obtained through Simple Health and Nationwide Health, including the processing of enrollment forms, verification of eligibility for coverage, providing fulfilment documents to members,



member support calls and other support activities.

57. The HII Defendants directed Simple Health and Nationwide Health to use the HII Defendants' online platform, which Simple Health's and Nationwide Health's agents used to quote and sell the HII Defendants' products.

58. The HII Defendants also entered into Master Commission Advance Agreements ("MCAA") and Secured Promissory Notes with Simple Health, Nationwide Health and/or their master licenseholders in which the HII Defendants financed Simple Health's and Nationwide Health's businesses by advancing Simple Health's and Nationwide Health's commissions prior to Simple Health earning them. The MCAA essentially established a loan from the HII Defendants to Simple Health and Nationwide Health in which the HII Defendants repay themselves by withholding payments on future commissions earned by Simple Health and Nationwide Health. As collateral, Simple Health and Nationwide Health granted the HII Defendants a security interest in Simple Health's and Nationwide Health's assets, including but not limited to future commissions and accounts receivable, and Simple Health's and Nationwide Health's principals, including Dorfman, Spiewak, provided personal guarantees.

59. Buoyed by the HII Defendants' financing, by September 2016 Simple Health employed 40 to 50 sales agents and about 35 customer service representatives out of its Hollywood, Florida, headquarters and satellite locations in Doral, Florida, and Boca Raton, Florida. By 2018, Simple Health had more than 100 sales agents.

60. The HII Defendants benefited greatly as well. Simple Health was the HII Defendants' largest and most profitable third-party broker. From 2014 through October 2018, HIIQ paid about \$180 million in commissions to Simple Health. By 2015, Simple Health was responsible for a significant percentage of the HII Defendants' limited benefit indemnity policy

sales. The HII Defendants' 2016 annual report indicates that Simple Health accounted for more than 65% of advanced commissions paid.

61. Nationwide Health has grown to become one of the largest (if not the largest) distributors for the HII Defendants, selling millions of dollars of the HII Defendants' Cardinal Choice plan.

**C. The Enterprise's Scheme**

62. The HII Defendants and their distributors perpetrated a unified, common scheme whereby sales agents led consumers, including Class Plaintiffs and class members, to believe they would receive comprehensive medical insurance when, in reality, they received a combination of relatively worthless products that typically consisted of a limited benefit indemnity plan and ancillary products such as a medical discount membership and AD&D insurance.

63. As further described below, the HII Defendants directed, managed, operated, conspired to and knew about and substantially assisted the scheme, which was orchestrated to induce consumers through misleading websites and standardized and uniform scripts that sales agents were carefully trained to perform.

**D. The Misleading Websites**

64. The sales process was tailored to mislead from beginning to end. With the HII Defendants' financing, Simple Health paid search engines to direct consumers searching for specific words (or "AdWords") such as "Obamacare," "Obama Health Care," "Obama Insurance" and "Obama Care Insurance" toward one or more of Simple Health's 129 lead-generation websites. Consumers searching for these words can reasonably be assumed to have been searching for ACA-compliant policies.

65. The names of the lead-generation websites themselves were designed to mislead

consumers into thinking that they were shopping for ACA-compliant plans. They included addresses like “[Obamacare-healthquotes.com](http://Obamacare-healthquotes.com),” “[myobamacareapplication.com](http://myobamacareapplication.com),” “[healthinsurance2017deadline.com](http://healthinsurance2017deadline.com)” and “[healthinsurancedecline2018.com](http://healthinsurancedecline2018.com).”

66. In addition, the websites featured logos of large, well-known insurance carriers like BlueCross, Anthem Blue, BlueShield, Aetna and Cigna, implying that comprehensive medical insurance was being sold. The websites also used the logo of the American Association of Retired Persons (“AARP”) despite no affiliation with, or permission from, the AARP.

67. The websites also used the Better Business Bureau (“BBB”) logo, even though neither the HII Defendants nor Simple Health nor Nationwide Health had BBB accreditation. In fact, the BBB processed dozens of complaints against all three companies. According to the Southeast Florida BBB’s vice president for operations, the complaints share a common thread: that consumers “paid hundreds of dollars per month for what Simple Health telemarketers led them to believe would be a major medical health insurance policy but instead turned out to be a medical discount membership, indemnity policy, or similar product that did not provide the promised benefits or coverage.”

**E. A Standardized Sales Script Is Used to Fraudulently Induce Consumers**

68. The websites contained phone numbers for consumers to call. In addition, the contact information of potential customers, including Class Plaintiffs and class members, was obtained through these websites. Consumers were then contacted by sales agents.

69. According to one Simple Health sales agent, “[v]irtually every consumer I spoke to while employed at Simple Health was in search of a major medical insurance policy as well as some assurance that the policy would cover various pre-existing conditions and medications.”

70. Sales agents were provided with a carefully crafted, standardized script designed to

mislead consumers, including Class Plaintiffs and class members, into believing they were being offered ACA-compliant insurance. While a script was created for each limited benefit indemnity product, all were virtually identical.

71. Sales agents were directed to follow the script verbatim. Simple Health's quality control department monitored sales agents' calls and made written comments such as: "The agent needs to explain the benefits verbatim in order to provide the customer with the correct information," and "The Agent needs to read the post close verbatim in order to set the correct expectations, avoid cancellations and auto fails."

72. Training materials urged sales agents to "STICK TO THE SCRIPT!!! . . . History has proven to us that the best salespeople at Simple Health are the agents that stick to the script and have faith in the process. . . . The script keeps a consistent message across all departments."

73. Simple Health's policy stated that any employee deviating from the script could be terminated.

74. The script began, "Hello . . . I am going to be helping you with your application for an *affordable health insurance quote*." (emphasis added). These words were intended to mislead consumers to believe that sales agents were pricing comprehensive medical insurance compliant with the Affordable Care Act.

75. The script continued by instructing sales agents to tell the consumer "The name of my company is Simple Health, and we represent most of the MAJOR "A Rated" CARRIERS in [your] state . . . . So I'm able to give all of your options, and find you the BEST PLAN out there for the **BEST PRICE!**" This statement was untrue, misleading consumers, including Class Plaintiffs and class members, to believe that agents were shopping for major medical insurance through an exchange that offered multiple options.

76. The script then directed the sales agent to ask questions suggesting that they sought to help the consumer purchase comprehensive medical insurance. Questions like whether the consumer was “currently insured?” and with what “insurance company?” The script also asked the consumer to “verify any pre-existing medical conditions,” and whether he or she has “ever been denied for health insurance.” The script omitted to tell consumers, including Class Plaintiffs and class members, that their answers to these questions would have no impact on whether they could buy the limited indemnity plans that were being sold.

77. The script went on to state “we want to find you a PPO, that way you can keep your own doctors and hospitals. I want to get you prescription coverage and lab coverage for your preventative care and maintenance.” But the plans were not PPOs. They had no “preferred” network of providers with favorable co-insurance or co-pays that count toward a deductible. The HII Defendants, Simple Health and Nationwide Health were selling limited benefit indemnity plans and discount plans — networks of doctors and facilities offering preset discounts to members. Unlike PPOs, these networks did not offer insurance, did not administer the plans and did not pay claims to doctors or providers within the network. At best, the plans merely provided a discount, the level of which was not even known to the consumer prior to receiving care, making it difficult if not impossible for the consumer, including Class Plaintiffs and class members, to make informed choices.

78. After obtaining the customer’s personal information, the script directed the agent to say “Ok, I know exactly what you’re looking for,” and “I am going to submit your application” and “search” for the best plan. The script contained a paragraph described as the “Fear of God paragraph,” stating “Just so you know, . . . most insurance companies are VERY DISCRIMINATORY against pre-existing health conditions. So I may not be able to get you

approved for anything right now.” The script failed to tell consumers that no matter what the consumers’ situations, they were going to be offered a limited benefit indemnity plan that would all but certainly be approved, and that the plan had a 12-month exclusionary period for pre-existing conditions.

79. The script then instructed the agent to place the consumer on a brief hold, after which “we’ll go over all of your options, if there are any, and make sure we find you the best plan for the best price.”

80. The script failed to tell the consumer, including Class Plaintiffs and class members, that the sales agent was not searching for different insurance options. The agent was simply biding time to make it look like he or she was shopping among various plans. (In fact, FTC recordings captured sales agents talking amongst themselves during the hold). The sales agent was always going to offer the consumer a limited benefit indemnity plan, regardless of the consumer’s specific needs.

81. When the hold was lifted, the sales agent said:

(Their name) I have some great news for you! Based upon your application, I was able to get you approved into a plan in the state of (state). This is an “A Rated” carrier and a PPO. Do you know what a PPO stands for? (*Regardless of answer, tell them!*) PPO stands for Preferred Provider Organization, which simply means you can choose your own doctors and hospitals, and you don’t need a referral to see a specialist.

82. Again, these statements about a “PPO” from an “A Rated carrier” were untrue.

83. The script continued with a paragraph “only for those with pre-existing conditions,” stating “individuals like you can join this plan, and still qualify for this low rate. . . . What’s the point of paying all that money every month if it’s not going to cover the most important things, right??? **Exactly!!!** This plan covers you from day 1 . . . .” Again, the plan did not cover pre-existing conditions from day one. There was a one-year pre-existing condition exclusion. And

even after a year, the plan offered only unspecified discounts for treatment of pre-existing conditions, not comprehensive coverage.

84. The script continued, “Now, you can go to any doctor in the country” and “your insurance can be used at virtually ANY inpatient, or outpatient facility in the NATION.” But the limited benefit indemnity plans and discount plans developed by Defendants were not offered by every doctor in the country, nor were they accepted in most facilities. Nor were they comprehensive medical insurance, as the script failed to mention.

85. The script continued, “You will NEVER have ANY upfront costs on this PPO.” On this point, the script failed to explain that not paying a copay or deductible did not ensure cost savings overall. Indeed, an FTC expert has testified that the maximum annual value of the limited benefit indemnity plan was \$3,200 for inpatient hospital, outpatient clinic and emergency room care, and did not include pharmacy, dental, laboratory, imaging or vision insurance coverage.

86. The script went on to make more misrepresentations that the consumer was buying into a PPO with no deductible:

Now as you know MOST PLANS come with high deductibles that will have you paying THOUSANDS out of pocket BEFORE your insurance will pay for ANYTHING!! This plan does not work that way. This is a FIRST DOLLAR COVERAGE PLAN, which means THIS PLAN covers you from the MOMENT you enter the hospital. So again, first the PPO network will take your entire hospital bill, and re-price. (pause) After the PPO network covers you, your plan pays additional insurance benefits to help you cover the rest. When all is said and done you end with pennies on the dollar if any cost at all!! The whole idea of this plan is to make your out of pocket expenses as low as possible, without you EVER having to meet a deductible first.

87. A straightforward example shows why these statements misrepresent the plans that were offered. A patient who spends 14 days in the hospital and incurs a \$30,000 medical bill receives \$700 (or \$50 for 14 days) under the limited benefit indemnity plan developed by Defendants and sold through Simple Health, leaving a bill of \$29,300. Comprehensive medical

insurance with a deductible of \$2,000 and out-of-pocket maximum of \$7,500 would leave the patient with a bill of \$7,500, with the insurer covering the rest.

88. The script went on to throw in dental and vision coverage seemingly for free: “Now, for your benefit I have included an additional dental plan along with your policy. This additional card gives you a dental and vision savings benefit which gives you more coverage than any other traditional insurance plan.” This statement was untrue. The plan did not offer more coverage than a traditional dental and vision plan.

89. The script continued, “Also, I have included additional insurance benefits such as Accidental Death AND an Accident Medical Expense plan along with your package.” But this additional “benefit” was not free. In reality, consumers, including Class Plaintiffs and class members, were charged significant fees and premiums for this “included” coverage.

90. The standard sales pitch claimed that plans included pharmacy coverage. They did not. The script nonetheless asked consumers what medications they took, in an effort to make it seem like its plans included pharmacy benefits. The agents also quoted consumers the price of those medications, without telling the consumer that the agent was getting that price from a publicly available website, and not from a PPO or comprehensive medical plan.

91. Again, never did the sales script direct the agent to tell consumers that they were buying a limited benefit plan as opposed to comprehensive medical insurance. These omissions, coupled with the affirmative misrepresentations in the script, were intended to induce consumers, including Class Plaintiffs and class members, to purchase the plan by leading them to believe they were buying comprehensive medical insurance.

92. Nationwide Health used a similar script, requiring its sales agents to adhere to the script or face disciplinary action. Sales agents touted the Cardinal Choice limited benefit



indemnity plan as “major medical insurance,” “A-rated” and a “PPO,” and described its benefits as including 70% coverage with no deductible, and potentially “eliminating” out-of-pocket exposure.

**F. Payment Is Taken and the Customer Is Read the Post-Close Script**

93. Next, the Simple Health and Nationwide Health sales agents took payment from the customer, including Class Plaintiffs and class members, using the HII Defendants’ web-based payment platform. According to the HII Defendants’ most recent SEC Form 10-K, Simple Health and Nationwide Health used the HII Defendants’ platform to make payment and complete the enrollment process, taking “credit card and Automated Clearing House (“ACH”) payments directly from members at the time of sale.” *See* Health Insurance Innovations Inc. Form 10-K, at 5, (March 13, 2019) (found at <https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1561387/000156138719000004/hiiq-2018x12x31x10k.htm>) (emphasis added). Class members paid an enrollment fee of \$60 to \$175, along with their first monthly premium, typically between \$40 and \$700.

94. After making payment, the Simple Health sales agent employed the “post-close” portion of the script. The post-close script instructed the agent to say “**CONGRATULATIONS on your NEW INSURANCE POLICY!!**” This, again, suggested to the customer that they had just purchased comprehensive medical insurance. The script also included misleading statements like, “Now REMEMBER, this is a GROUP PLAN.” And it also made clear that, at that point, the customer had already made the decision to purchase, and did purchase, the products.

95. By design, the post-close script desensitized the customer to the coming “verification” process, a process designed to “walk back” some of the misrepresentations just made to the customer via the sales script.

96. The post-close script undermined the verification process by telling the customer that although the verification department would review the plan he or she just purchased, some of the verification information “WILL NOT APPLY TO YOU. I just want you to know what parts affect you, and what don’t; because they read the SAME SCRIPT to everyone.”

97. The post-close script instructed the agent to tell the customer to ignore the verification department’s statements that the customer was not buying comprehensive medical insurance: “Now, they **ALSO** will tell you that this is not a major medical plan **OR A DISCOUNT PLAN**. Obviously this isn’t a discount plan. This **IS INSURANCE**.”

98. Again, these statements were untrue. The plans were limited benefit indemnity plans and medical discount plans, not comprehensive medical insurance.

99. The post-close script also instructed agents to suggest that the insurance covered preexisting conditions: “Now, fortunately for YOU, this IS a GUARANTEED ISSUE health insurance plan. Because of the OPEN ENROLLMENT in your state, you’re approved TODAY, regardless of your conditions.” The script then went on to tell the consumer not to heed the verification department’s statements about limitations on preexisting conditions. “On the Verification, they will state there is a 12/12 [one-year] preexisting clause that applies to your hospital and surgical benefits for any preexisting diagnosis you’ve had within the past 12 months. Now because of this OPEN ENROLLMENT, you’re approved today, REGARDLESS of those conditions.” Thus, the script misstated that the one-year preexisting conditions clause does not apply to the consumer.

**G. The Verification Script Also Misled Customers**

100. Just before the sales agent sent customers from the post-close phase to the verification phase, the script instructed the sales agent to say: “IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS

DURING THE VERIFICATION, DO ME A FAVOR, *IF YOU CAN*, AND JUST HOLD THEM UNTIL THE END, BECAUSE THEY ONLY GIVE US A FEW MINUTES OF TAPE TIME, AND IF THEY DON'T FINISH—THEY HAVE TO DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN FROM THE BEGINNING, SO YOU CAN CALL ME BACK, OKAY?"

101. This statement was untrue. There was no issue with the amount of recording tape, and questions would not have caused the verification process to start over. In fact, if a question was asked, the verification agent would turn off the recording before responding. Sales agents used a "verification rebuttal" script instructing them to provide different and conflicting answers to customers' questions depending on whether the verification was "on recording" or "off recording." One "on recording" rebuttal script described the limited benefit indemnity plan as "not health insurance," while the corresponding "off recording" rebuttal stated, "this is health insurance."

102. The statement had a fraudulent purpose: to discourage customers from asking questions so that sales agents could obtain a clean recording of a verification script that was inconsistent with what the customer had just been read in the sales script and post-close script. The HII Defendants were aware that, with few exceptions, Simple Health recorded only the verification process and not the sales and post-close processes.

103. The verification script instructed agents to tell customers that they had purchased a "limited benefit plan" that was not traditional medical insurance. Again, however, this disclosure was made after the customer had made his or her purchase decision and paid for the plan, and after the sales agent had read from a script designed to undermine the importance of the verification process and its applicability to the customer.

104. To the extent the sales pitches, post-close statements or verification statements

varied in a given phone call, they were nonetheless tied to standardized scripts and emanated from uniform training procedures, and as a result did not materially vary among customers, including Class Plaintiffs and class members. Everyone, including Class Plaintiffs and class members, received a common menu of fraudulent misrepresentations and omissions conveying a consistent message: that they were receiving a great deal on comprehensive medical insurance. In reality, in exchange for hefty up-front fees and monthly payments of hundreds of dollars, customers received relatively worthless limited benefit indemnity plans, medical discount plans and other ancillary products.

105. Nationwide Health's post-close verification process was substantially similar if not the same. Verification agents instructed customers to answer "Yes" to a rapid-fire set of questions aimed at "walking back" previous misrepresentations.

#### **H. A Fiduciary Relationship Was Established**

106. Simple Health and Nationwide Health knew that customers, including Class Plaintiffs and class members, were relying on Simple Health and Nationwide Health for assistance and protection. As one former Simple Health sales agent said, many did not have health insurance because they had lost their jobs or could not afford it. Many had pre-existing conditions.

107. Simple Health's and Nationwide Health's customers, including Class Plaintiffs and class members, were vulnerable. They relied on and trusted Simple Health and Nationwide Health, and Simple Health and Nationwide Health knew and encouraged that reliance and trust.

108. Simple Health and Nationwide Health, using the HII Defendants' distribution channels, purposely created a special, fiduciary relationship with its customers, including Class Plaintiffs and class members. Their sales scripts directed the sales agent to investigate the customer's insurance needs by asking a series of personal questions.

109. Simple Health's script directed the sales agent to (at least pretend to) determine what coverages were available to meet the customer's needs, particularly with regard to preexisting conditions and possible federal tax penalties, and to make a recommendation: "Your new PPO will cover everything you need AND be affordable at the same time. This is ABSOLUTELY the best plan you'll receive in your price range."

110. The Simple Health script directed the sales agents to volunteer that the customer, including Class Plaintiffs and class members, needed a "PPO, that way you can keep your own doctors and hospitals. I want to get you prescription and lab coverage for your preventative care and maintenance. . . and MOST IMPORTANTLY, you want a plan that will have very low out of pocket expenses, right?"

111. To further engender trust, Simple Health and Nationwide Health's scripts touted their expertise. For example, Simple Health's script stated:

The name of my company is Simple Health, and we represent most of the MAJOR "A Rated" CARRIERS in the state of \_\_\_\_... So I'm able to give all of your options, and find you the BEST PLAN for the **BEST PRICE!**

\*\*\*\*

Remember, I work with virtually EVERY PLAN available in your state, so if I thought there were ANYTHING OUT THERE that was more beneficial for you than THIS plan, then THAT is what I'd be offering you! I take a lot of pride in what I do and I like to think that our relationship starts TODAY, okay?

112. Simple Health and Nationwide Health's scripts also directed the sales agent to make representations about the breadth of the coverage obtained. Simple Health's script stated:

You will receive doctor's visits, diagnostic testing for blood & lab work, 3 options of your medications, medical, surgical and hospital coverage with NO DEDUCTIBLE! . . .

\*\*\*\*

You will NEVER incur ANY upfront costs on this PPO and your insurance can be used at virtually ANY inpatient, or outpatient facility in the NATION. . . .

\*\*\*\*

Now, for your benefit I have included an additional dental plan along with your policy. This additional card gives you a dental and vision savings benefit which give you more coverage than any other traditional insurance plan. Also, I have included additional insurance benefits such as Accidental Death AND an Accident Medical Expense plan along with your package.”

113. In an attempt to deepen the special relationship with customers, the Simple Health and Nationwide Health scripts encouraged customers to rely on sales agents to answer questions and assist with the plans they purchased, touting superior licensing, knowledge and training. Simple Health’s script stated:

Again, (first name) although you were able to contact your carrier directly and they are very nice people, they literally get paid minimum wage to read the answers to your questions off a piece of paper. Everyone here at Simple Health is fully licensed, trained on your policy, and here to help you. Please keep in touch with us for any question or concerns about your plan.

114. By encouraging and engaging their customers, including Class Plaintiffs and class members, in a special, fiduciary relationship, Simple Health and Nationwide Health triggered a duty to advise consumers, including Class Plaintiffs and class members, prudently about their coverage needs. That included a duty not to mislead them.

**I. Class Plaintiffs and Class Members Relied as a Whole on the Misrepresentations**

115. Given the nature of the misrepresentations and the materiality of the omissions, it can be legitimately inferred that Class Plaintiffs and class members reasonably relied on the statements made in the sales presentations. The misrepresentation of plans as ACA-compliant, comprehensive medical insurance plans formed the basis of the consideration for which Class Plaintiffs’ and class members agreed to purchase them. The fact that those misrepresentations emanated from standardized scripts further shows reliance common to the entire class.

116. Class Plaintiffs and class members were provided agreements that contained boilerplate language disclaiming that the plans included comprehensive medical coverage or were otherwise ACA-compliant. But payment was made before customers received any disclaimers.

And by design, the presentation led customers, including Class Plaintiffs and class members, to misapprehend that the agreements told a different story than what the sales agents had conveyed through their standardized scripts.

117. Thus, it can be easily presumed that customers, including Class Plaintiffs and class members, relied upon the misrepresentations and omissions during the sales and “post-close” processes, and not the verification process or boilerplate disclaimers that came afterward. The scheme was premised on getting borrowers to agree to and pay for the limited indemnity plans before they received the disclaimers.

118. Prompted by the FTC investigation of Simple Health, the HII Defendants have acknowledged as much. In July 2019, they sent correspondence to then-current customers who had purchased through Simple Health, and acknowledged both the common scheme and the relative valueless of the limited indemnity plans and ancillary products sold to consumers:

Simple Health claimed to offer comprehensive health insurance or PPOs that would cover many of your medical needs. But Simple Health sold only medical discount memberships, limited benefit plans, and other products that provide a small reimbursement or discount for a few services. **That means your Simple Health Plan is not comprehensive health insurance. If you get sick or have to go to the hospital, you may have to pay almost all of your medical bills.**

(emphasis in original). The HII Defendants’ correspondence attempted to shift blame to Simple Health, failing to disclose or acknowledge the HII Defendants’ role, knowledge and assistance in the scheme.

**J. Victims Included the Class Plaintiffs**

119. The scheme described above was applied to Class Plaintiffs.

120. **Elizabeth Belin**. Belin sought ACA-compliant coverage in early 2016. A Google search of “individual health insurance plan” led her to one of Simple Health’s websites that suggested it sold ACA-compliant insurance. She entered her information on January 27, 2016,

and received a call from a Simple Health sales agent later that day.

121. Belin recalls that the agents, whose names Belin cannot remember but who can likely be identified through Simple Health's records, took Belin through the sales, post-close and verification scripts described above.

122. The sales agent stated that Simple Health represented most of the large insurance companies in Ohio, and that he would shop among a number of PPOs to find the best one for Belin for the best price. The sales agent told Belin that he was going to put her on hold to do the search.

123. The sales agent came back on the line with "great news." He offered Belin a "PPO" that he said provided insurance coverage for doctor's visits, prescriptions and Belin's pre-existing condition — a knee that would need replacement surgery — for \$238.77 per month. He told Belin that she could go to any doctor, including her knee specialist, at any location within the "network." He said that the majority of her medical costs would be covered.

124. The sales agent also told Belin that he would include AD&D and dental insurance. He did not tell her that she would pay extra for those.

125. The sales agent's representations led Belin to believe she was buying broad, comprehensive medical insurance. In reality, she received limited benefit indemnity insurance called Principle Advantage Limited Benefit Health Insurance (for \$51.32); Teledoc membership (\$22.50); Freedom Spirit Plus AD&D insurance (\$130); dental and eye discount plans (totaling \$30); as well as membership in Med-Sense (\$4.95).

126. The sales agent processed Belin's credit card information and completed the purchase for \$393.77, which included an enrollment fee of \$155. When done, he congratulated her on her new insurance policy.

127. The sales agent told Belin that he would be transferring her to the "verification



department,” and that they would tell her things that did not apply to her. He said that if she had any questions, she should hold them and call back.

128. Belin received an information packet directly from the HII Defendants via email, and membership cards directly from the HII Defendants via the U.S. mail.

129. In November 2017, Belin had knee replacement surgery. A few months later, she received a call from the hospital stating that only a fraction of her surgery and related expenses had been covered, and that she owed \$48,000 (which was more than her annual salary as a paraprofessional). In addition, Belin received other uncovered charges for anesthesiology (\$3,000), rehabilitation (\$4,600) and other incidentals. Belin cancelled a second knee replacement surgery scheduled for the following Monday, then (with great difficulty) cancelled her “insurance.”

130. HPIH collected \$6,363.02 in fees and premiums from Belin. Belin paid \$3,614.43 in out-of-pocket medical expenses, and owes an additional \$5,785.93.

131. **Chris Mitchell**. Mitchell also sought ACA-compliant coverage in early 2016. A search for health insurance plans available through the ACA marketplace took him to a number of websites, including Simple Health’s. He inputted his information and received a call on January 13, 2016 from a sales agent named Chase.

132. Chase said Simple Health represented most of the A-Rated carriers in Kansas and could give Mitchell “all his options” and “find the best plan for the best price.” Chase said he would find Mitchell a “PPO” that would allow Mitchell to keep his doctors and hospitals and provide prescription and lab coverage.

133. Chase said he would put Mitchell on hold and then come back to “go over all your options.” When Chase returned, he told Mitchell “I did a search here for you” and was able to find

a “PPO” from an “A-rated carrier.” Chase continued through the script, saying Mitchell would receive “doctor’s visits, you know, diagnostic testing for blood and lab work, three options for your medications, medical, surgical and hospital coverage with no deductible, which is great.” He said there were “no limits on plan usage and a zero deductible.” None of this was true.

134. Mitchell asked Chase to call back the next day, which Chase did. Chase quoted Mitchell a \$206.90 monthly premium and \$155 enrollment fee. Chase said this included insurance through the Multiplan Nationwide PPO Network (“Multiplan”), which “does also come with dental as well,” along with vision and hearing. In reality, these were dental, vision and hearing discount plans, and they were not free.

135. Chase also failed to tell Mitchell that he was getting AD&D insurance, which Mitchell never asked for, or that Mitchell would be charged for it. The name of the AD&D insurer was Companion Life Insurance Company (“Companion”).

136. Chase asked for, and Mitchell provided, Mitchell’s credit card number. Chase processed the payment and said “congratulations on your new insurance policy.”

137. Chase then transferred Mitchell to the verification department, but not before telling Mitchell “what they’re going to do is just a brief recording for your protection and they’ll go over the plan with you on the verification. And just to let you know, you know, some of the information will apply to you, some of it will not apply. You know, they just kind of read over the same script to everyone.” The verification agent quickly read to Mitchell the verification script and prompted Mitchell to say “yes” to various questions.

138. Mitchell received an information packet directly from the HII Defendants via email, and membership cards directly from the HII Defendants via the U.S. mail.

139. In late February 2018, Mitchell was diagnosed with Invasive Ductal Carcinoma

Grade 3. His doctor ordered an immediate lumpectomy and sentinel lymph node biopsy. Surgery was quickly scheduled. But just days before the surgery, Mitchell's hospital informed him that he did not have insurance coverage for the surgery.

140. Mitchell contacted Companion, which referred him to Defendants. Defendants referred him to Simple Health. Simple Health assured Mitchell that his surgery would be covered.

141. Mitchell then contacted Multiplan, which informed him that they were not an insurer but a repricing group. Multiplan could not tell him anything about what coverage he would receive for the surgery.

142. Mitchell's hospital contacted Simple Health to discuss surgical procedure codes. Simple Health informed them that procedure codes would only be considered *after* surgery. Thus, Mitchell would not know what coverage he might receive until after he incurred the cost of surgery.

143. The hospital agreed to proceed for an upfront payment, which Mitchell paid via credit card. After the surgery, he received bills exceeding \$40,000, much of which he still owes.

144. Mitchell, who works as an advocate for the homeless, was greatly impacted by what happened — financially, emotionally and physically. He said that at times, the fight for insurance coverage felt more difficult than fighting cancer.

145. Mitchell paid \$6,775.80 to HPIH for fees and premiums. Mitchell paid \$11,443.89 in out-of-pocket medical expenses, and owes an additional \$4,960.86.

146. **Kevin Furman**. On or about December 8, 2017, Furman made a search engine request for “major medical inexpensive” and was led to a website containing a phone number for one of Nationwide Health's entities.

147. Furman called the number and was told by the Nationwide Health sales agent, whose name Furman cannot remember, that Furman would receive major medical insurance to

protect against catastrophic health costs. Furman paid a \$125 enrollment fee and a \$437.54 in premium over the phone, for a total of \$562.54.

148. None of what he was sold included major medical insurance. He received the Cardinal Choice limited indemnity benefit product (\$198.70). And he received the following ancillary products: Rx Helpline (\$12.50); membership fee to the Medsense Association (\$19.95); Freedom Spirit AD&D insurance (\$100); Teledoc (\$19.99); Safeguard Accident Insurance (\$47.40) and USA+ Dental (\$39).

149. Furman received an information packet directly from the HII Defendants via email, and membership cards directly from the HII Defendants via the U.S. mail.

150. Furman continued to pay the monthly premium for about a year, when he was told by his new employer that the HII product he had purchased through Nationwide Health was not major medical insurance.

151. HPIH collected \$5,375.48 in fees and premiums from Furman.

152. Pursuant to the individual mandate provisions of Affordable Care Act, Furman paid a tax penalty of \$1,607 in 2018 for not having major medical insurance.

153. **Mitchell Kirby**. Kirby was in his early 20s in July 2016 when he sought his first health insurance policy. In particular, Kirby sought major medical insurance to protect him in the event of a catastrophic injury.

154. He conducted a Google search and located a Simple Health website.

155. On or about July 29, 2016, he spoke with a Simple Health sales agent, whose name he cannot remember. Kirby explained to the agent that he has an active, outdoor lifestyle. The agent said he would find comprehensive major medical insurance to protect Kirby in the event of a serious accident.

156. Kirby was quoted \$149.67 a month. None of what he was sold included major medical insurance: Principle Advantage limited indemnity benefit product (\$51.32); Teladoc 24/7 doctor visits by telephone (\$22.95); Freedom Spirit AD&D insurance (\$70.45); and a monthly Med-Sense fee (\$4.95).

157. Kirby paid an enrollment fee of \$125 and the first monthly payment of \$274.67 with his credit card. He was then transferred to the verification department, which Kirby described as “the end of a pharmaceutical commercial”: a fast-talking representative asked him a series of questions and asked him to say “Yes” to each of them in succession.

158. Kirby received an information packet directly from the HII Defendants via email, and membership cards directly from the HII Defendants via the U.S. mail.

159. In April 2019, Kirby was involved in a motor vehicle accident. He received bills of more than \$35,000 for healthcare expenses that were not covered by the product he purchased through Simple Health.

160. HPIH collected \$5,513.12 in fees and premiums from Kirby, refunding \$179.67, for a total of \$5,363.45. Kirby paid \$195.45 in out-of-pocket medical expenses, and owes an additional \$46,867.39.

161. **Gabrielle Watson**. Watson is a citizen of South Carolina. On or around February 2, 2018, she sought to purchase a health insurance policy. In particular, Watson sought major medical insurance that would provide full coverage including coverage in the event of a catastrophic injury.

162. She conducted a Google search and located what she now believes was a Simple Health website.

163. She spoke with a Simple Health sales agent and explained to the agent her expectations and goals from the health insurance. The agent represented that she would find comprehensive major medical insurance.

164. Watson was quoted \$102.31 a month. She received a VitalaCare limited benefit indemnity plan. She also received ancillary products including Teladoc, Rx Helpline and a carrier association membership. None of what she was sold included major medical insurance.

165. Watson paid an enrollment fee of \$125 and the first monthly payment of \$102.31 with a credit card. She was then transferred to the verification department in which a representative asked her a series of questions and asked her to say “Yes” to each of them in succession.

166. Watson received an information packet directly from the HII Defendants via email, and membership cards directly from the HII Defendants via the U.S. mail.

167. In the months of February, July and August, Watson required medical treatment. She received bills for medical expenses that were not covered by the product he purchased through Simple Health.

168. HPIH collected \$1,966.58 in fees and premiums from Watson, refunding \$102.31, for a total of \$1,864.27. Watson paid \$349.32 in out-of-pocket medical expenses, and owes an additional \$6,964.88.

169. **Kathryn Svenson**. Svenson is a citizen of Hawaii. On or around July 10, 2018, when she was in her 30s, she sought her first health insurance policy in the U.S. In particular, Svenson sought major medical insurance that would provide full coverage including coverage in the event of a catastrophic injury.

170. She conducted a Google search about health insurance and located what she now

believes was a Simple Health website. She filled out some information on the webpage and was contacted by Simple Health shortly thereafter.

171. She spoke with a Simple Health sales agent and explained to the agent her expectations and goals from the health insurance. The agent represented that he would find comprehensive major medical insurance.

172. Svenson was quoted \$167.52 a month for a Legion Limited Medical limited indemnity benefit product (underwritten by Axis Insurance Company), Freedom Spirit AD&D insurance, and ancillary products including Teledoc, Rx Helpline and a carrier association fee. None of what she was sold included major medical insurance.

173. Svenson paid an \$125 enrollment fee and the first monthly payment of \$167.52 with her credit card. She was then transferred to the verification department.

174. Svenson received an information packet directly from the HII Defendants via email, and membership cards directly from the HII Defendants via the U.S. mail.

175. In February 2019, Svenson was involved in an incident in which she required medical treatment for her finger due to a serious accident. She sought medical treatment, expecting it to be covered by insurance, but instead received bills of more than \$5000 for medical expenses that were not covered by the product she purchased through Simple Health.

176. HPIH collected \$2,135.24 in fees and premiums from Svenson. Svenson paid \$120.66 in out-of-pocket medical expenses, and owes an additional \$4,738.90.

177. **Jesse Manley**. Manley is a citizen of Michigan. In mid-2017, Manley was searching online for comprehensive medical coverage. He found a site with the Blue Cross/Blue Shield logo. He called the number on the website and was directed to Simple Health agent, whose name he cannot recall. Manley asked the agent more than once to confirm that he was being quoted

Blue Cross/Blue Shield insurance. Each time the agent answered affirmatively.

178. Manley was quoted \$178 for a Unified National Health limited indemnity benefit product (underwritten by Unified Life Insurance Company) and an ancillary dental product. None of what he was sold included major medical insurance.

179. Manley paid an enrollment fee and his first monthly payment with his credit card. He was then transferred to the verification department.

180. Manley received an information packet directly from the HII Defendants via email, and membership cards directly from the HII Defendants via the U.S. mail.

181. In 2018, Manley suffered blood clots in his leg that required extensive testing. Manley sought medical treatment, expecting it to be covered by insurance, but instead received bills of nearly \$1,500 for medical expenses that were not covered by the product he purchased through Simple Health.

182. HPIH collected \$4,272 in fees and premiums from Manley. Manley paid \$1,465.91 in out-of-pocket medical expenses.

183. **Randall Spitzmesser**. Spitzmesser is a citizen of Nevada. Sometime in early June 2018, Spitzmesser searched online for health insurance. Newly married, he was searching for comprehensive healthcare for himself and his wife. After inputting his information into the website, he received a call from Simple Health. He cannot recall the name of the agent he spoke with.

184. Spitzmesser asked whether he could get comprehensive coverage for doctor visits, prescriptions, lab costs, dental and vision coverage. The agent put Spitzmesser on hold and conducted a search. Returning from the hold, the agent told Spitzmesser that he had found such coverage. The agent also mentioned Obamacare, telling Spitzmesser that because he was newly



married, he qualified for special benefits under Obamacare.

185. Spitzmesser was quoted \$224.08 monthly for a “Health Choice +” limited indemnity benefit product (underwritten by American Financial Security Life Insurance Company) and Freedom Spirit Plus AD&D insurance. None of what he was sold included major medical insurance.

186. Spitzmesser paid a \$125 enrollment fee and his first monthly payment with his credit card. He was then transferred to the verification department.

187. Spitzmesser received an information packet directly from the HII Defendants via email, and membership cards directly from the HII Defendants via the U.S. mail.

188. Spitzmesser and his wife made separate doctors visits, and were surprised to receive bills for service Spitzmesser was told were covered. These expenses totaled \$1,993.70, which Spitzmesser paid.

189. The expenses arising out of his wife’s visit, for \$438, were sent to a collection agency before they were paid.

190. HPIH collected \$3,486.20 in fees and premiums from Spitzmesser.

**K. Defendants Knew About and Directed the Fraudulent Scheme**

191. The HII Defendants and Kosloske had actual knowledge of, and directed, managed, operated and/or conspired to the fraudulent scheme.

192. The HII Defendants’ Role as Training and Compliance Monitor. The HII Defendants’ SEC filings acknowledge that “[w]e provide the distributors with training, audit and other support, and monitoring, and we continue to improve our distributor compliance.” The HII Defendants’ employees specifically provided call training and compliance monitoring to agents at Simple Health’s and Nationwide Health’s headquarters in Broward County. The HII Defendants

often stationed its employees in-house to oversee compliance and conduct compliance audits and interviews of the sales agents.

193. As part of this training and compliance process, the HII Defendants' representatives reviewed the misleading scripts and at times directed or suggested edits to be made to those scripts. The HII Defendants' "Call Center Quality Department" monitored and critiqued the sales agents' presentations, which were read verbatim from the script. Transcripts of those calls, and the Quality Department's critiques, were received, acknowledged and read by the HII Defendants' compliance department and Vice President of Sales, Amy Brady. The HII's Defendants' representatives also discussed the script, and the sales pitches, with distributor sales agents.

194. The HII Defendants also reviewed consumer lead-generating websites and approved their content.

195. The HII Defendants' Role as Third-Party Administrator. As third-party administrator, the HII Defendants provided post-sale customer service to consumers who purchased limited benefit disability insurance through Simple Health and Nationwide Health. As the HII Defendants state in their SEC filings, the HII Defendants managed the "non-claims related experience" of consumers signed up through Simple Health and Nationwide Health. The HII Defendants also acknowledged in those filings that the HII Defendants had received complaints from consumers that the information they were provided "was not accurate or was misleading."

196. From the beginning of its relationship with Simple Health, for example, the HII Defendants received thousands of complaints directly from consumers, or through regulators or insurers that received those complaints, complaining that they had been led to believe they had bought comprehensive medical insurance through Simple Health. The HII Defendants categorized these complaints with the moniker "Agent Misrep." The following chart shows the complaint

types received by the HII Defendants in 2018:

<b>Complaint Type</b>	<b>Total</b>
Agent Misrep Obamacare (ACA)	62
Agent Misrep on Copay/Coinsurance/Deductible/Cash Benefits	87
Agent Misrep on Policy Coverages	488
Agent Misrep on Policy Type	130
Agent Misrep on Pre-existing Coverage	28
Agent Misrep on Providers in Network	69
Ancillary Continues to Bill after Core terminated (Agent)	13
Ancillary not Cancelled with Core (Agency)	5
Ancillary not Cancelled with Core (HII)	5
Ancillary Policy not Authorized	71
Information never received (agent)	11
Information never received (HII)	9
Member threatening regulatory complaint	15
Policy not authorized	27
Unable to Reach Agent	5

197. The following chart shows the complaint types received by the HII Defendants in 2017:

<b>Complaint Type</b>	<b>Total</b>
Agent Misrep Obamacare (ACA)	384
Agent Misrep on Copay/Coinsurance/Deductible/Cash Benefits	171
Agent Misrep on Policy Coverages	944
Agent Misrep on Policy Type	258
Agent Misrep on Pre-existing Coverage	21
Agent Misrep on Providers in Network	102
Ancillary Continues to Bill after Core terminated (Agent)	25
Ancillary not Cancelled with Core (Agency)	22
Ancillary not Cancelled with Core (HII)	13
Ancillary Policy not Authorized	177
Information never received (agent)	15
Information never received (HII)	42
Member threatening regulatory complaint	62
Policy not authorized	95
Unable to Reach Agent	4

198. The following chart shows the complaint types received by the HII Defendants in 2016:

<b>Complaint Type</b>	<b>Total</b>
Agent Misrep	1146
Agent Misrep Obamacare (ACA)	33
Agent Misrep on Copay/Coinsurance/Deductible/Cash Benefits	47
Agent Misrep on Policy Coverages	170
Agent Misrep on Policy Type	53
Agent Misrep on Pre-existing Coverage	7
Agent Misrep on Providers in Network	5
Agent Never Cancelled Policy	287
Ancillary Continues to Bill after Core terminated (Agent)	2
Ancillary not Cancelled with Core (Agency)	5
Ancillary not Cancelled with Core (HII)	4
Ancillary Policy not Authorized	21
Ancillary Product Billing	5
Benefits	65
Claims	28
Information never received	79
Member threatening regulatory complaint	4
Obamacare (PPACA)	14
Unable to Reach Agent	1

199. The following chart shows the complaint types received by the HII Defendants in 2015:

<b>Complaint Type</b>	<b>Total</b>
Agent Misrep	224
Ancillary Product Billing	14
Benefits	6
Claims	9
Unable to Reach Agent	1

200. As part of the HII Defendants' role as third-party administrator, the HII Defendants also processed thousands of refunds to Simple Health and Nationwide Health customers seeking to cancel their limited indemnity plans because those plans were not what they thought they were purchasing.

201. HPIH's Licensed Agents Worked in Simple Health's Broward County Office.

More than 40 sales agents working at Simple Health registered their licenses through Defendant HPIH. Those agents saw and used the misleading scripts.

202. The HII Defendants Were Aware of the Misleading Websites. The HII Defendants' employees and agents also saw the misleading websites and their use of names like Cigna, Blue Cross and Aetna, as well as logos for the AARP and BBB. The limited indemnity products that Defendants sold through Simple Health and Nationwide Health were not offered through major healthcare insurers like Cigna, Blue Cross, Aetna and others.

203. The HII Defendants also knew that Simple Health and Nationwide Health did not have a positive BBB rating. The BBB complained to the HII Defendants about the fact that Simple Health was generating numerous complaints about its business practices. Nationwide Health received correspondence from the BBB on September 26, 2018, regarding to a pattern of customer complaints. The BBB later reported that "the pattern of complaints has continued," and "updated the company's report to reflect a failure to eliminat the underlying cause of complaints."

204. The HII Defendants Received Numerous Inquiries From State Agencies Regarding Simple Health's and Nationwide Health's Practices. The HII Defendants also knew about the sales practices because the HII Defendants received extensive negative regulatory attention as a result of those practices.

205. For example, in 2015 the state of Montana brought an action against the HII Defendants and several of its agents, including HBO (Simple Health) and its licensed agent, Spiewak. Montana alleged, among other violations, that the HII Defendants and affiliated producers and licensees, including Simple Health and Spiewak, were "misrepresenting the terms of insurance policies at the time of sale."

206. In 2016, the state of Arkansas issued a cease and desist order to the HII Defendants alleging that the HII Defendants and its agents, including Simple Health, “used fraudulent and dishonest practices in attempting to sell short-term health care plans.”

207. In mid-2017, the Pennsylvania Insurance Department’s Bureau of Licensing and Enforcement (the “PIDBLE”) began investigating the HII Defendants relating to complaints by customers who had been led to believe that they were buying ACA-compliant insurance. The PIDBLE determined that most of the products were administered by the HII Defendants, and began investigating the HII Defendants, and then investigated Simple Health as well.

208. In 2016, the Florida Department of Financial Services (“FDFS”) issued a Letter of Guidance admonishing Simple Health for using deceptive advertising that implied that Simple Health primarily sold ACA-compliant products, when most of the products it sold were indemnity products and discount plans that did not provide minimum essential coverage (or “MEC”) required by Obamacare. FDFS provided these Letters of Guidance to the HII Defendants. Separately, the FDFS received 10 complaints about Simple Health and 45 complaints about the HII Defendants since 2015 relating to sales practices.

209. In 2017, the HII Defendants were hit with a TCPA lawsuit in which the plaintiff alleged that HPIH’s sales agents lure customers with brand names like Blue Cross but sell non-ACA-compliant plans of dubious value. Those sales agents included Simple Health and Nationwide Health.

210. In August 2018, the California Department of Insurance penalized the HII Defendants, alleging that the HII Defendants were “participating in deceptive sales practices by misrepresenting health policies to consumers.” Those practices were carried out by, among other agents, Simple Health.

211. The State of Washington's insurance commissioner revoked Donisi's license after a consumer who purchased a limited benefit indemnity policy from Nationwide Health was left with \$300,000 in unpaid medical expenses.

212. As a result of these and other state-led investigations, the HII Defendants publicly disclosed in 2016 that they were "reviewing the sales practices and potential unlicensed sale of insurance by third-party distributor call centers utilized by" the HII Defendants.

213. Ultimately, the HII Defendants have been investigated by more than 40 states relating to its distribution and sales practices. In December 2018, just weeks after the FTC shut down Simple Health, the HII Defendants entered into a regulatory settlement agreement with 43 states in which the HII Defendants agreed to, among other conditions, require its external distributors to record all internal and external sales calls; prepare and implement a "disclosures plan" aimed at ensuring that consumers be made aware of policy details and fees at the time they purchase insurance products; prepare and implement a "compliance plan" to monitor and improve sales practices; prepare and implement a "training plan" to train internal and external sales agents to comply with insurance laws; and pay a \$3.4 million penalty.

**L. The HII Defendants Substantially Assisted the Ongoing Scheme**

214. The HII Defendants substantially assisted the ongoing misrepresentations and breaches of fiduciary duty to consumers, including Class Plaintiffs and class members, in numerous ways.

215. The HII Defendants Financed Simple Health's and Nationwide Health's Operations. The HII Defendants financed Simple Health's and Nationwide Health's operations in the form of loans that they called "advanced commissions." In 2015 alone, the HII Defendants loaned Simple Health more than \$15 million. That number increased each year.

216. Without the HII Defendants' financing of its commissions, Simple Health and Nationwide Health would not have been able to operate. With the HII Defendants' money, Simple Health and Nationwide Health thrived, which in turn generated millions of dollars in fees and premiums for the HII Defendants. Simple Health stated publicly that it had "an important, strategic relationship with" the HII Defendants.

217. The HII Defendants Acted as Third-Party Administrator. The HII Defendants also acted as third-party administrator, collecting payments from consumers who purchased through Simple Health and Nationwide Health, accounting for those payments and then either distributing to Simple Health and Nationwide Health its commission or using that commission to pay down the HII Defendants' loan.

218. The HII Defendants also directed other services for customers obtained through Simple Health and Nationwide Health, including the processing of enrollment forms, verification of eligibility for coverage, providing fulfillment documents to members, member support calls and other support activities.

219. The HII Defendants Directed Simple Health and Nationwide Health to Use Their Online Platform. The HII Defendants also provided Simple Health and Nationwide Health with access to the HII Defendants' online platform, which Simple Health's and Nationwide Health's agents used to quote and sell various products from the HII Defendants' carriers.

220. The HII Defendants Facilitated Simple Health's Licensing Requirements. Simple Health's licensing requirements were covered primarily by the license of its managing agent, Spiewak. When Spiewak resigned, Simple Health needed a replacement. The HII Defendants directed Simple Health's agents to become licensed through HPIH.



221. The HII Defendants Paid High Commissions. The HII Defendants incentivized Simple Health's and Nationwide Health's operations with extremely high commissions. The HII Defendants paid 45% to 60% of the consumer fees and premiums it collected to Simple Health and Nationwide Health, a much higher rate than were paid out for traditional insurance products.

222. The HII Defendants Covered Simple Health's Legal Fees Arising Out of State Regulatory Investigations. The HII Defendants and Simple Health's sales practices attracted numerous state regulatory investigations. In some if not all such instances, including but not limited to the Montana investigation, the HII Defendants paid for Simple Health's legal fees to address those investigations.

223. The HII Defendants also withheld significant relevant information from regulators. For example, Massachusetts' attorney general filed a petition to force the HII Defendants to provide sales scripts, recordings, consumer complaints and audits and "secret shopper" reports. Massachusetts complained that the HII Defendants had given "inadequate and incomplete" sworn testimony to investigators.

**M. The Scheme Caused Class Plaintiffs and Putative Class Members to Suffer Damages**

224. By deceptively presenting the products sold to Class Plaintiffs and class members as comprehensive medical insurance, Defendants induced Class Plaintiffs and class members to buy those products. Class Plaintiffs and class members paid fees and premiums that they otherwise would not have paid in the absence of the misrepresentations and omissions. And the actual value of the products they bought were less than what they bargained for and/or were led to expect through Defendants' misrepresentations and omissions.

225. Class Plaintiffs and Class Members Pay Fees and Premiums. Relying on the misrepresentations, Class Plaintiffs and all class members paid an enrollment fee of between \$60

and \$175. A portion of the enrollment fee went to the HII Defendants, and the other portion to the distributor.

226. Also relying on the misrepresentations, Class Plaintiffs and class members paid a first monthly premium during enrollment ranging from \$40 to \$700. A portion of the first monthly premium went to the HII Defendants, another portion went to the distributor and the remainder went to the plan providers. Class Plaintiffs and class members then paid similar monthly premiums from there on.

227. The HII Defendants continued to bill and collect money from consumers even after the FTC shut down Simple Health in October 2018. From December 2018 through February 2019, the HII Defendants charged customers 165,798 times, totaling approximately \$14.6 million and resulting in commissions owed to Simple Health of \$4.6 million.

228. Class Plaintiffs and Class Members Incur Medical Expenses That Would Have Been Covered by Comprehensive Medical Insurance. As a result of the scheme, Class Plaintiffs and class members suffered damages by paying for medical expenses that would have been covered had they not been induced to purchase limited benefit indemnity and medical discount plans, and instead purchased an ACA-Compliant plan.

229. For example, Mitchell received more than \$40,000 for surgery and medical bills arising out of his cancer diagnosis. He received only \$450 in benefits through the HII Defendants' plan, despite paying nearly \$5,000 in premiums over the previous two years. Similarly, Belin received approximately \$48,000 in medical bills relating to her knee surgery, which she continues to pay off.

230. By misleading customers to believe that they were purchasing major medical insurance, but selling those customers limited benefit indemnity plans and ancillary products such

as medical discount plans at inflated prices, the HII Defendants through the Enterprise foreseeably caused Class Plaintiffs and class members to overpay for those products. For those Class Plaintiffs and class members who are members of the Medical Expense Subclass, this caused another foreseeable injury: the accrual of medical expenses that would have been covered by an ACA-Compliant plan.

231. Class Members Incur Tax Penalties Under the ACA's Individual Mandate. Through 2018, the Affordable Care Act's individual mandate required Americans to buy comprehensive medical coverage. Because the HII Defendants' limited indemnity plans and ancillary products were not comprehensive medical coverage, some Class members such as Furman had to pay a penalty to the IRS.

**N. The FTC Shuts Down Simple Health**

232. On October 29, 2018, the FTC filed a lawsuit against Simple Health and Dorfman alleging misrepresentations in violation of the FTC Act. Specifically, the FTC alleged that Simple Health misled consumers to believe they were buying comprehensive medical insurance instead of limited benefit indemnity plans and medical discount plans.

233. On October 31, 2018, Judge Darrin Gayles of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida entered a temporary restraining order and appointed Goldberg as interim receiver to take control of Simple Health.

234. The HII Defendants terminated the Simple Health MGAA and MCAA on November 2, 2018.

235. On April 16, 2019, Judge Gayles held an evidentiary hearing on the FTC's motion for preliminary injunction. On May 14, 2019, Judge Gayles entered an order granting the motion, and appointed Goldberg as permanent receiver. The Court found that "[t]hough consumers

believed they were purchasing comprehensive health insurance coverage, [Simple Health] sold them practically worthless limited indemnity or discount plans.”

236. The Court also found that Simple Health made numerous misrepresentations, including that i) the limited benefit indemnity plans were comprehensive medical insurance; ii) the limited benefit indemnity plans were qualified health insurance plans under the ACA; iii) Simple Health was an expert on, or provider of, government-sponsored health insurance policies; and iv) Simple Health was affiliated with AARP and major medical providers like BCBS.

### **RICO ALLEGATIONS**

237. The HII Defendants, Simple Health, Nationwide Health, their officers and employees, including but not limited to Kosloske, Dorfman, Spiewak, Donisi and Jaxtheimer; as well as independent contractors; agents including Safeguard, HBG and Assurance; third-party subagents; associations such as Med-Sense, the National Congress of Employers and Alliance for Consumers USA; and the John Doe Entities operated, managed, directed and/or conspired with an associated-in-fact enterprise (the “Enterprise”). The Enterprise sold or distributed limited benefit indemnity plans, medical discount plans and other non-ACA-compliant products to consumers who thought they were purchasing comprehensive medical insurance. The purpose was to deceptively maximize profitability — to take cheap and relatively worthless products, bundle them and then represent them as something more valuable and expensive (major medical insurance) so as to sell the products at an unfair premium.

238. The Enterprise used the wires and mails to perpetrate the fraud. Simple Health and Nationwide Health used a standardized script to make misrepresentations and omissions to Class Plaintiffs and class members over the phone, as well as to obtain and process payment information. The HII Defendants then sent each Class Plaintiff and class member a packet of confirmatory

documentation via email or U.S. mail. The HII Defendants also monitored numerous sales calls by Simple Health and Nationwide Health agents.

239. Throughout its existence, the Enterprise engaged in, and its activities affected, interstate commerce. The Enterprise involved commercial activities across state lines, including marketing campaigns, phone solicitations and the solicitation and receipt of money from Class Plaintiffs and class members across the country.

240. The HII Defendants and Kosloske participated in the operation and management of the Enterprise's affairs, through among other methods and means, the following:

- a. Developing the products to be sold;
- b. Developing the third-party distribution channel that ran through Simple Health and Nationwide Health;
- c. Loaning millions of dollars to Simple Health and Nationwide Health to finance their operations;
- d. Training Simple Health's and Nationwide Health's sales agents;
- e. Monitoring compliance functions, including but not limited to monitoring sales calls;
- f. Collecting monthly premiums from customers;
- g. Accounting for, auditing and distributing the commissions and proceeds of those sales;
- h. Dealing with and providing customer service to customers following those sales;
- i. Reviewing and approving the scripts;
- j. Controlling the delivery of "membership cards" to customers;

k. Allowing and coordinating dozens of Simple Health sales agents to register their licenses through the HII Defendants;

l. Directing and paying for legal costs incurred by Simple Health arising out of regulatory investigations; and

m. Directing Simple Health and Nationwide Health to use the HII Defendants' online platform to quote and sell the HII Defendants' products.

241. Regarding Kosloske specifically, he approved the products to be sold; recruited agents like Dorfman, Spiewak, Donisi and Jaxheimer; developed distribution channels through their companies; approved the HII Defendants' financing of those companies; and participated in the management and operation of the Enterprise's compliance, training and administrative functions.

242. The HII Defendants and Kosloske were knowing and willing participants in the Enterprise and its scheme, and reaped revenues and/or profits therefrom.

243. The HII Defendants have an ascertainable structure separate and apart from the pattern of racketeering activity in which the HII Defendants and Kosloske have engaged. The Enterprise is separate and distinct from the HII Defendants and Kosloske.

244. The HII Defendants, who are persons associated-in-fact with the Enterprise, knowingly, willfully and unlawfully conducted or participated, directly or indirectly, in the affairs of the Enterprise through a pattern of racketeering activity within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1961(1), (5) and 1962(c). The racketeering activity was made possible by the regular and repeated use of the facilities, services, distribution channels and agents of the Enterprise.

245. The HII Defendants committed multiple racketeering acts, including aiding and abetting such acts. The racketeering acts were not isolated, but rather were related in that they had

the same or similar purposes and results, participants, victims and methods of commission. Further, the racketeering acts were continuous, occurring on a regular (daily) basis throughout a time period beginning in 2013 through November 2, 2018.

246. The HII Defendants' and Kosloske's predicate racketeering acts within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. § 1961(1) include, but are not limited to:

a. Mail Fraud. The HII Defendants and Kosloske violated 18 U.S.C. § 1341 by sending or receiving, or causing to be sent or received, materials via U.S. mail or commercial interstate carriers for the purpose of executing the scheme, which used material misrepresentations and omissions to induce consumers, including Class Plaintiffs and class members, to purchase limited benefit indemnity plans, medical discount plans and other products. The materials that the HII Defendants sent or received include but were not limited to enrollment packets containing "membership cards," billing statements, customer service-related letters and customer payments.

b. Wire Fraud. The HII Defendants and Kosloske violated 18 U.S.C. § 1343 by transmitting or receiving, or causing to be transmitted or received, materials by wire and/or email for the purpose of executing the scheme, which used material misrepresentations and omissions to induce consumers, including Class Plaintiffs and class members, to purchase limited benefit indemnity plans, medical discount plans and other products. The information and materials transmitted and/or received include but were not limited to misrepresentations and omissions about the nature of the products being sold, payment wires, interstate credit card transactions, invoices, customer service-related letters and emails promoting the scheme, such as introductory emails.

247. In devising and executing the scheme, the HII Defendants and their personnel,

including Kosloske, committed acts constituting indictable offenses under 18 U.S.C. §§ 1341 and 1343, in that they directed and carried out a scheme or artifice to defraud or obtain money by means of materially false misrepresentations or omissions. For the purpose of executing the scheme, the HII Defendants and Kosloske committed or caused to be committed these racketeering acts, which number in the thousands, intentionally and knowingly, with the specific intent to advance the scheme.

248. The HII Defendants and Kosloske participated in the operation and management of the Enterprise by directing its affairs, as described above.

249. The HII Defendants and Kosloske had knowledge of the essential nature of the scheme. They knew that distributors including Simple Health and Nationwide Health were using misrepresentations and omissions to induce customers seeking major medical insurance to purchase relatively worthless limited benefit indemnity products and ancillary products such as medical discount plans. Despite that knowledge, the HII Defendants and Kosloske committed the predicate acts of wire and mail fraud described above.

### **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

250. Class Plaintiffs bring this lawsuit as a class action on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated as members of the proposed Classes described as follows:

Class. All individuals who purchased the HII Defendants' limited benefit indemnity plans and/or ancillary products such as medical discount plans through Simple Health or Nationwide Health within the applicable statute(s) of limitation, and paid a fee and/or a premium.

Medical Expense Subclass. All individuals within the Class who incurred uncovered medical expense(s).

Tax Penalty Subclass. All individuals within the Class who incurred a penalty under the ACA's individual mandate provisions.

251. The Class is represented by all Class Plaintiffs. The Medical Expense Subclass is



represented by Belin, Mitchell, Kirby, Watson and Svenson. And the Tax Penalty Subclass is represented by Furman. Excluded from the Classes are the HII Defendants and their directors, officers, employees or independent contractors, or the former directors, officers, employees or independent contractors of Simple Health or Nationwide Health.

252. This action may be maintained as a class action pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, because it meets all the requirements of Rule 23(a)(1-4), including the numerosity, commonality, typicality and adequacy requirements, and it satisfies the requirements of Rule 23(b)(3) in that the predominance and superiority requirements are met.

253. Numerosity. The members of the Classes are so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable. Since June 7, 2015, more than 220,000 people nationwide purchased the HII Defendants' limited benefit indemnity plans through Simple Health, and more than 47,000 people purchased the HII Defendants' limited benefit indemnity plans through Nationwide Health.

254. Commonality. There are numerous questions of fact or law that are common to Class Plaintiffs and all the members of the Classes. Common issues of fact and law predominate over any issues unique to individual class members. Issues that are common to all class members include, but are not limited to the following:

- (a) Whether Simple Health and Nationwide Health engaged in a common, scripted scheme whereby Simple Health and Nationwide Health made uniform material misrepresentations and omissions to consumers, including Class Plaintiffs and class members, to induce them to believe they would receive comprehensive medical insurance when, in reality, consumers received a limited benefit indemnity plan and/or ancillary product such as a medical discount plan;
- (b) Whether Defendants directed, operated and/or managed the scheme;

- (c) Whether Defendants had actual knowledge of the scheme;
- (d) Whether Defendants, despite actual knowledge of the scheme, substantially assisted it;
- (e) Whether Simple Health and Nationwide Health had a fiduciary duty to consumers, including Class Plaintiffs and class members;
- (f) Whether Defendants violated 18 U.S.C. § 1962(c) or (d);
- (g) Whether Class Plaintiffs and class members suffered damages;
- (h) Whether Defendants must disgorge profits; and
- (i) Whether Class Plaintiffs and class members are entitled to treble damages, punitive damages, attorneys' fees and/or expenses.

255. Typicality. Class Plaintiffs have claims that are typical of the claims of all of the members of the Class. Class Plaintiffs' claims and all of the class members' claims arise out of the same uniform and scripted scheme. Furthermore, those claims arise under legal theories that apply to Class Plaintiffs and all other class members.

256. Adequacy of Representation. Class Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately represent the interests of the members of the Classes. Class Plaintiffs do not have claims that are unique to Class Plaintiffs and not the other class members, nor are there defenses unique to Class Plaintiffs that could undermine the efficient resolution of the claims of the Class. Further, Class Plaintiffs are committed to the vigorous prosecution of this action and have retained competent counsel, experienced in class action litigation, to represent them. There is no hostility between Class Plaintiffs and the unnamed class members. Class Plaintiffs anticipate no difficulty in the management of this litigation as a class action.

257. Predominance. Common questions of law and fact predominate over questions affecting only individual class members. The only individual issues likely to arise will be the amount of damages recovered by each class member, the calculation of which does not bar certification.

258. Superiority. A class action is superior to all other feasible alternatives for the resolution of this matter. Individual litigation of multiple cases would be highly inefficient and would waste the resources of the courts and of the parties. The fees and premiums sought by Class Plaintiffs and class members are relatively small and unlikely to warrant individual lawsuits given the fees and costs, including expert costs, required to prosecute claims for those fees and premiums.

259. Manageability. This case is well suited for treatment as a class action and easily can be managed as a class action since evidence of both liability and damages can be adduced, and proof of liability and damages can be presented, on a classwide basis, while the allocation and distribution of damages to class members would be essentially a ministerial function.

260. Ascertainability. Class members are readily ascertainable. The HII Defendants keep detailed electronic records that show, among other information, Class members' names; contact information; transaction histories; limited benefit indemnity plans and ancillary products purchased; fees and premiums collected; and agent company name (ie., Simple Health or Nationwide Health).

**COUNT I**  
**(Violation of RICO § 1962(c) Against All Defendants)**

261. Class Plaintiffs incorporate the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 105 and 118 through 260 as if fully set forth herein.

262. The Enterprise is engaged in, and its activities affect, interstate commerce.

263. Defendants are entities or individuals capable of holding a legal or beneficial interest in property, and therefore each meet the definition of a culpable “person” under 18 U.S.C. § 1961.

264. Defendants were associated with the Enterprise and conducted and participated in the Enterprise’s affairs through a pattern of racketeering activity, as defined by 18 U.S.C. § 1961(5), comprised of numerous and repeated uses of the mails and interstate wire communications to execute a scheme to defraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1962(c).

265. The Enterprise was created and/or used as a tool to carry out the scheme and pattern of racketeering activity.

266. Defendants have committed or aided and abetted the commission of at least two acts of racketeering activity, i.e., indictable violations of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1341 and 1343, within the past 10 years. The multiple acts of racketeering activity that they committed and/or conspired to, or aided and abetted in the commission of, were related to each other and constituted a “pattern of racketeering activity.”

267. Defendants used thousands of interstate mail, wire and email communications to create and perpetuate the scheme in support of the uniform misrepresentations and omissions made by sales agents to consumers, including Class Plaintiffs and class members.

268. Defendants knew about and directed the material misrepresentations and omissions being made to consumers. Defendants obtained money and property belonging to Class Plaintiffs and class members as a result of these violations. Class Plaintiffs and class members have been injured in their business or property by Defendants’ overt acts of mail and wire fraud.

269. Class Plaintiffs and class members have been injured in their property by reason of Defendants’ violations of 18 U.S.C. § 1962, including payment of the enrollment fee, other fees

and monthly premiums, which collectively amount to tens of millions of dollars, for products that were not comprehensive medical insurance. Class Plaintiffs and class members in the Medical Expenses Subclass have also been injured by paying for medical expenses that would have been covered had they not been induced to purchase limited indemnity and ancillary products such as medical discount plans, and instead purchased comprehensive medical insurance. And members of the Tax Penalty Subclass have been injured by having to pay a federal tax penalty under the ACA's individual mandate provisions. In the absence of Defendants' violations of 18 U.S.C. § 1962, Class Plaintiffs and the class members would not have incurred these losses.

270. Class Plaintiffs and class members' injuries were directly and proximately caused by Defendants' racketeering activity.

271. Defendants knew and intended that Class Plaintiffs and class members would rely on the scheme's misrepresentations and omissions. Defendants knew and intended that Class Plaintiffs and class members would pay fees and premiums, and would incur out-of-pocket costs for uncovered procedures and medication.

272. Under the provisions of 18 U.S.C. § 1964(c), Class Plaintiffs are entitled to bring this action and to recover their treble damages, the costs of bringing this suit and reasonable attorney's fees. Defendants are liable to Class Plaintiffs and class members for three times their actual damages as proved at trial plus interest and attorneys' fees.

WHEREFORE, Class Plaintiffs, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, pray this Court to enter judgment against Defendants that awards actual damages, treble damages and attorney's fees, and/or such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

**COUNT II**  
**(Section 1962(d) RICO Conspiracy Against All Defendants)**

273. Class Plaintiffs incorporate the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 105 and 118 through 260 as if fully set forth herein.

274. Defendants agreed and conspired to violate 18 U.S.C. § 1962(c). Specifically, Defendants conspired to conduct and participate in the conduct of the affairs of the Enterprise through a pattern of racketeering activity.

275. With knowledge of the essential nature of the scheme, Defendants have intentionally conspired and agreed to directly and indirectly conduct and participate in the conduct of affairs of the Enterprise through a pattern of racketeering activity. Defendants committed predicate acts that they knew were part of a pattern of racketeering activity and agreed to the commission of those acts to further the schemes described above. That conduct constitutes a conspiracy to violate 18 U.S.C. § 1962(c), in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1962(d).

276. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' conspiracy, the overt acts taken in furtherance of that conspiracy, and violations of 18 U.S.C. § 1962(d), Plaintiffs have been injured in their business or property.

WHEREFORE, Class Plaintiffs, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, pray this Court to enter judgment against Defendants that awards actual damages, treble damages and attorney's fees, and/or such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

**COUNT III**  
**(Aiding and Abetting a Violation of RICO Section 1962(c) Against All Defendants)**

277. Class Plaintiffs incorporate the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 105 and 118 through 260 as if fully set forth herein.

278. Defendants aided and abetted and shared the intent to aid and abet a scheme to violate 18 U.S.C. § 1962(c), specifically, a scheme that used materially false and misleading statements and omissions to mislead Class Plaintiffs and class members to believe they were buying comprehensive medical insurance.

279. Defendants each had knowledge of the scheme and provided substantial assistance toward its commission.

280. Defendants substantially benefited from their participation in the scheme, earning millions of dollars of fees and other revenue from Class Plaintiffs and class members.

281. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' aiding and abetting of predicate acts of a Section 1962(c) RICO violation, Class Plaintiffs and class members have suffered damages in an amount to be determined at trial.

WHEREFORE, Class Plaintiffs, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, pray this Court to enter judgment against Defendants that awards actual damages, treble damages and attorney's fees, and/or such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

#### **COUNT IV**

##### **(Aiding and Abetting a Breach of Fiduciary Duty Against the HII Defendants)**

282. Class Plaintiffs incorporate the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 48, 68 through 105, 118 through 236 and 250 through 260 as if fully set forth herein.

283. The HII Defendants' distributors fostered a special relationship with Class Plaintiffs and class members that engendered fiduciary duties of loyalty, care, honesty and/or good faith.

284. As set forth above, Simple Health and Nationwide Health breached those fiduciary duties by perpetrating a scheme that misled Class Plaintiffs and class members to believe they were buying comprehensive medical insurance.

285. The HII Defendants substantially assisted in Simple Health's and Nationwide Health's breaches of fiduciary duty with knowledge that Simple Health and Nationwide Health were breaching those duties.

286. As a direct and proximate result of the HII Defendants' aiding and abetting Simple Health's and Nationwide Health's breaches of fiduciary duty, Class Plaintiffs and class members have suffered damages in an amount to be determined at trial, and/or are entitled to the disgorgement of the HII Defendants' profits therefrom.

WHEREFORE, Class Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and all similarly-situated class members, respectfully demand judgment against the HII Defendants for their damages; disgorgement of the HII Defendants' profits on fees and premiums; punitive damages; pre- and post-judgment interest; and/or such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

#### **COUNT V**

##### **(Aiding and Abetting Fraud Against the HII Defendants)**

287. Class Plaintiffs incorporate the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 48, 68 through 105, 115 through 236 and 250 through 260 as if fully set forth herein.

288. As set forth above, Simple Health and Nationwide Health perpetrated a fraud upon Class Plaintiffs and class members through materially false and misleading statements and omissions that misled Class Plaintiffs and class members to believe they were buying comprehensive medical insurance. Simple Health and Nationwide Health knew these statements to be false.

289. The misrepresentations stemmed from standardized scripts presented by sales agents to Class Plaintiffs and class members. Class Plaintiffs and class members reasonably relied to their detriment upon those misrepresentations, and purchased relatively worthless limited benefit indemnity plans and/or medical discount plans.



290. The HII Defendants substantially assisted Simple Health and Nationwide Health with knowledge that Simple Health and Nationwide Health were defrauding consumers like Class Plaintiffs and class members.

291. In connection with providing substantial and material assistance to Simple Health and Nationwide Health, the HII Defendants knew of their role in their scheme, and acted knowingly in assisting.

292. The HII Defendants substantially benefited from their participation in the scheme, earning millions of dollars of fees and other revenue from Class Plaintiffs and class members.

293. As a direct and proximate result of the HII Defendants' aiding and abetting the fraud, Class Plaintiffs and class members have suffered damages in an amount to be determined at trial, and/or are entitled to the disgorgement of the HII Defendants' profits therefrom.

WHEREFORE, Class Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and all similarly-situated class members, respectfully demand judgment against Defendants for their damages; disgorgement of Defendants' profits on fees and premiums; punitive damages; pre- and post-judgment interest; and/or such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

**COUNT VI**  
**(Unjust Enrichment Against HPIH)**

294. Class Plaintiffs incorporate the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 48, 68 through 105, 118 through 227, 232 through 236 and 250 through 260 as if fully set forth herein.

295. Class Plaintiffs and class members conferred benefits upon HPIH in the form of fees and premiums paid to the HPIH.

296. HPIH knowingly and voluntarily accepted, and retained, those benefits.

297. For the reasons described above, it would be inequitable for HPIH to retain those benefits, including profits derived from those benefits.

WHEREFORE, Class Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and all similarly-situated class members, respectfully demand judgment against HPIH for the return of the portion of fees and premiums retained by HPIH; disgorgement of HPIH's profits on fees and premiums; pre- and post-judgment interest; and/or such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

Class Plaintiffs hereby demand a trial by jury on all allowable claims and forms of relief.

Dated: January 24, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

LEVINE KELLOGG LEHMAN  
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THE DOSS FIRM, LLC

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